

***The 40 Days Between the Resurrection & Ascension - Acts 1:1-9***  
**Notes, Family Worship, Bible Reading**

**Notes from the Sermon**

The Easter story is one many people are familiar with, pointing to how Jesus was crucified & died on Friday, was buried, and rose again on Sunday. We also know from scripture that He ascended 40 days later. But what about between those two events? What did Jesus do? Where did He go? Was there some rhyme or reason to what He was doing? The Bible does give us clarification on some physical things Jesus did between His resurrection and His ascension, but there are rather large gaps in earthly time unaccounted for; unfortunately, we cannot know for sure His entire schedule. After all, only God is sovereign and all-knowing. We can only know what God ordains that we know. So, perhaps it is best that we focus on what He has revealed to us in His word.

In Acts 1:1-9, Luke tells us that during those 40 days, Jesus physically appeared a number of times. On Resurrection Sunday alone, He appeared at least 5 times according to scripture: to Mary Magdalene, to a group of women, to two disciples on the road to Emmaus, to Peter, and to 10 of the disciples, where Jesus also ate fish, demonstrating He was not a spirit, but that His resurrected body was physical in nature. The scriptures describe several more appearances with the disciples, His brother James, and also an appearance to a crowd of over 500 people. While these appearances are interesting in and of themselves, it's important that we zoom out to see what is going on from a holistic perspective. What is it that Jesus hopes to accomplish from these appearances?

To begin, we must point to the fact that Jesus' mission has not changed. Acts 1:1 reminds us that the gospel of Luke began telling all that Jesus was to do and teach, up until His ascension. Jesus continually taught about the Kingdom of God, and that He was the Son of God. That did not change with His resurrection or ascension. In fact, His ministry continues to this day, and His mission is the same as it was when He was physically present on earth: to seek and save the lost by sharing the hope of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

To that end, these appearances are intended to be firsthand evidence to the apostles that the words of Jesus have always been true, so that they could serve in testifying as actual eyewitnesses to the living, resurrected Christ. These experiences were intended to embolden them, removing all doubt and question in their minds and hearts, bolstering their faith that Jesus is indeed the Son of God so that they could move forward as ironclad witnesses who would not waver in their testimonies to the eternal hope found in the risen King.

Additionally, Jesus assured the disciples of the promise of The Holy Spirit. He had foretold that they would receive the help of The Holy Spirit, but as Acts 1:4-5 states, He commanded them to wait for the coming indwelling of the fullness of The Holy Spirit in just a few days. Why? Because He knew that they would require the power of The Holy Spirit to accomplish any of what He was asking them to do. So often, we step into pursuit of good things for God, but we do so in our own strength, with our own plans. As we can see from their confusion about God's plan in Acts 1:6, the disciples were in dire need of the guidance of The Holy Spirit - just as we are.

Lastly, we see in Acts 1:8 that Jesus appointed the disciples to the task of taking the gospel to the nations. This is right in line with the Great Commission, in Matthew 28:16-20, where Jesus calls them (us) to go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that Jesus had commanded. This is why they needed the assurance of the power of The Holy Spirit. In their own power, they would make a complete mess of this commission. And in our own power, we would do the same. But our power is not God's plan. He has ordained The Holy Spirit to fuel His mission, and He will not fail. He will build His church, He will save His people. Jesus also explains how they will do this, radiating out from Jerusalem, to all Judea, Samaria and to the end of the earth - all ethnicities, all people groups. No nation is to be left out; this hope is for all the world (John 3:16).

I believe we can see our application of this text wrapped up in these points. It is vital -

literally a matter of eternal life or death - that each of us take note of these appearances, and wrestle with the resurrection. Do you believe these reports of Jesus rising from the dead? Because if they are real, Jesus is not merely a man; He is The Son of God, fully man AND full God, and according to His words, salvation is found in Him alone. Each of us must wrestle with that.

Furthermore, if we have believed in Him, we must live knowing that the power of The Holy Spirit is at work within us. We do not need to depend on our strength to get the work of the Kingdom done. And when I struggle with anxiety, depression, or life in general, I can depend on The Spirit for the strength to share my faith in my weakness, knowing that God will carry out His mission and bring His people to belief; my call is to trust in Him, step out of my comfort zone and share the hope I have. Because as believers, we carry on the commission appointed to the apostles: to bring the hope of the gospel to the nations.

### **Bible Reading for the Week**

#### **Daily Bible Readings**

Sun	Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri	Sat
1 Samuel 29	1 Samuel 30	1 Samuel 31	2 Samuel 1	2 Samuel 2	2 Samuel 3	2 Samuel 4

Reading from this past week's sermon: Acts 1:1-9

Reading in preparation for this coming Sunday: 1 Peter 2:9-25

### **Family Worship**

Song - *Behold Him*

[https://youtu.be/\\_izK4kl\\_wmA?si=5Fr6\\_QorpQeEQuOk](https://youtu.be/_izK4kl_wmA?si=5Fr6_QorpQeEQuOk)

#### **Gospel Project**

Unit: King Saul

Story: David Played for Saul

Big Picture Question: Who is our King?

Answer: Jesus is our King forever, and He rules over the world.

Scripture: 1 Samuel 16

#### **New City Catechism**

Question 27: Are all people, just as they were lost through Adam, saved through Christ?

Answer: No, only those who are elected by God and united to Christ by faith.

Verse: Romans 5:17

#### **Acts 1:1-9**

- Have you ever thought about what all Jesus did between His resurrection and ascension? What do you see in this text that He did during that time period?
- What is the primary goal in Jesus' ministry, and how do His post-resurrection appearances support that goal?
- How do we see the importance of The Holy Spirit in the mission of God in this passage?
- Have you considered the appearances of Jesus? What do you believe - is Jesus just a man who died and disappeared, or did He really rise from the dead and appear to people by 'many convincing proofs'?
- How can you depend more on The Holy Spirit as you seek to follow Jesus on mission?

#### **Prayer**

\*Pray that we would see the wonderful truth in the resurrection of Jesus and have certainty that this event actually took place.

\*Pray for the Acts 29 Church Planting Network and their efforts to plant churches all over the world.